

VZCZCXRO1939
OO RUEHDE RUEHDIR
DE RUEHMK #0582 1721342
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 211342Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6958
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFISI/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHBVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000582

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ARP, ISN/CPI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/21/2017

TAGS: PREL KNNP PARM BA REGION BILAT

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN DECIDES AGAINST JOINING PSI OPERATIONAL EXPERTS GROUP

REF: A. MANAMA 0385

1B. MANAMA 0370

1C. STATE 53412

Classified By: Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

.

11. (U) This is an action message - please see para 3.

12. (C) Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa confirmed to the Ambassador June 21 information that Defense Minister General Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa also discussed with the Ambassador the previous day: that Bahrain would not be able to join the Proliferation Security Initiative Operational Experts Group (OEG) because the MOD did not have enough people and resources to devote to it. He noted that MOD was feeling pressed already by its commitments for the NATO Istanbul Cooperative Initiative and it could not spare additional people for the OEG. Shaikh Khalid thought that the MFA might be able to pick up some of the MOD's responsibilities for NATO ICI, which could then free up MOD staff time for the OEG. Asking that the "door remain open" for Bahrain to join the OEG, Shaikh Khalid wondered if GOB representatives could attend the next meeting as observers, to judge better whether they should carve out resources to devote to it.

13. (U) Action Request: Please advise on whether Bahrain can attend the next OEG meeting as an observer.

Visit Embassy Manama's Classified Website:

<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/manama/>

MONROE